



## A Message From our President....

Dear membership of the Temple of the High Country. A cold wind blows thought the Christmas trees of Chuck Lieberman. They stand unflinching and unafraid. But where is their master? Chuck is seated by the woodstove. The house is cozy and warm, redolent with the smell of hot iron and warming turkey leftovers. I closed the farm and pulled up all my signs from the Highway just two days after Thanksgiving. Just not enough trees left to stay open. But the two weeks that I was open were invigorating. I hired an ASU student- ex football player, who worked really hard. It was fun and my orangery and new waterwheel were the source of much admira-

tion. I preened in a most embarrassing fashion. The Boone Jewish community, now bereft of its dynamic Florida contingent, has persevered in the face of dark and cold Friday nights. Attendance has dipped to about 15 or 20, and often half are ASU students. Nonetheless the flame of Judaism burns unabated. Sufficient volunteers are found after just moderate amounts of coercion and shaming to do the service and the Torah drosh. Our board meetings occur on the first Friday night of each month. and so far we have passed bylaws for committees and named committees and will be tackling this next week the thorny issue of proxy voting. We have also hired Peter Cohen to do High Holy Days next year and

given him a very modest raise for his services. These board meetings are characterized by the following three activities. 1) Teeth grinding. 2) talmudic argumentation 3) Heavy sighs of exasperation. Our property on the banks of Kraut Creek sleeps in post autumnal rest. The briars and Johnson grass are brown and lay upon the ground. The contour of the land is revealed and the stream is full with the heavy rains we have had. I stop their with some frequency and try to imagine our house of prayer - red brick walls, green metal roof, May G-d grant our small community success in this amazing endeavor. May we have the patience and fortitude to accomplish what we have set out  
CON'T ON PAGE 4

## Sisterhood News....

On **October 18** the Sisterhood elected a new board, it is as follows:

Co-Presidents– Leigh Girard & Fran Greenfield

Vice President– Marla Gentile

Treasurer– Ann Paces

Secretary– Nina Fehr

### Future Sisterhood meetings

**November 15, 2009** Marla Gentile gave a wonderful discussion on winter wellness.

**December 13, 2009** 2 pm at Erika Siegel's house. There will be a discussion on "The Holiday Dilemma". For directions, call Erika at 828-898-3686 or 828-783-8090.

**January 17, 2010** 1 pm at Huanan. There will be a book club format discussion of Sarah's Key by Tatiana de Rosnay .

Please read the book, your can order it online or at the public library.

**February 21, 2010** 2 pm at Leigh Girard's House. Fran Greenfield will do a presentation of a play about suicide (a comedy). For directions, call Leigh at 828-264-2557

**March 2010** Tentative plans were made to have a woman's Seder. More information to come.

### Inside this issue:

Presidents Message	1
Sisterhood News	1
Presidents Message Con't	2
Upcoming Events	2
Joys and Celebrations	2
Torah Scholar	3
Just for Laughs	3
Recipe	3
Torah Scholar Con't	4

The Sisterhood is in the process of collecting recipes for our TOHC cookbook. Please send us your favorite recipes for any occasion. You can email them to [elsqx4@charter.net](mailto:elsqx4@charter.net) or [daisyramo@aol.com](mailto:daisyramo@aol.com)

Please support the sisterhood and join. For more information call Leigh at 828-264-2557

## President's Message Con't

---

to do. And, succeed or fail, may we continue in good health and in communal amity. Our Hanukkah party will be Dec. 11, at 6:30 PM. at St Luke's. It will be milchiks and of course latkes and jelly donuts. We will recount briefly the amazing tale of how a few Jews threw off the comforting blanket of High Greek Culture and returned instead to walk humbly with their G-d.

**Chuck Lieberman,**  
Pres of the Temple of the High Country.

### SISTERHOOD ANNOUNCEMENT

The Sisterhood has offered to manage the oneg for the Friday night services in Boone. Our plan is to take turns at providing the food ourselves and/or purchasing the food on behalf of anyone in the community near or far who wishes to contribute to a particular evening service. Perhaps there is someone you would like to honor for a birthday or achievement. Donations for the oneg can also be made in memory of someone. We will announce at the services prior to the oneg who the benefactor is and who the oneg is honoring if that applies. For those who would like to donate an oneg feel free to contact anyone in the Sisterhood and send a check to them or you can contact Zodie Powers at 828-297-1681; 484 Fletcher Branch Road, Vilas, NC 28692; e mail zoshea@aol.com. Please give us your contact information and the date you would like to provide the oneg for the congregation. Any leftover funds can be returned to you or donated to the Sisterhood. Thank you and have a Happy Hanukkah and Happy New Year !

## Past Events and Upcoming Events...

---

On **September 25**, Chuck & Ruth led a dedication ceremony to honor the one year anniversary of the first announcement of the plans to build a temple. It was held at the future site of Temple of the High Country.



On **September 25**, Ruth Etkin led a Consecration Service at the Mount Lawn Memorial Park and Gardens Cemetery. Bringing together all those gravesites that have already been set aside, bought from the Boone Jewish Community in years past, as well as those already consecrated by those already buried there. These sites are the resting places of loved ones of members of the congregation.

On **December 11 at 6:30** the TOHC will be having it's Traditional Chanukah celebration. All are invited to bring their menorah, a plate of Latkes and a dairy or Parve dish and join the celebration .

## Jays and Celebrations...

---

A big Mazel-Tov to Amanda and Pete Hudzik, daughter of Erika and Carl Siegel. They welcomed their first child, Ella Marie Hudzik to the family Sept 27, 2009.



*Ella Marie Hudzik*

If anyone has an announcement that they would like included in the Newsletter please send an email with your information to [elsqx4@charter.net](mailto:elsqx4@charter.net)

The new website is finally up and running. Please look it up on the web. address is [www.templeofthehighcountry.org](http://www.templeofthehighcountry.org)

## Words from our Torah Scholar.....

### BABY ELLA - THE BIBLICAL CONOTATIONS

It gives me much joy to welcome baby Ella, Erika's granddaughter, and try to illustrate how deeply she is, through her name, and her date of birth, rooted in Biblical text and Jewish tradition.

"Ella" in Hebrew means "goddess", the female form derived from El (God). Ella is also the name of a tree, a kind of oak (terebinth) very often mentioned in the Bible.

A typical tree (its botanical name is "pistacia palaestina"), which was growing in abundance in Israel in Biblical times. The Canaanites used to worship it and sacrificed under it to the gods, and that may be the source of its name. Ella is a branchy, big, strong tree, and very beautiful, thus used a lot as a symbol by the prophets and Biblical scribes. Isaiah

uses the Ella, which renews itself every spring, as an allegory to Judea salvation and revival: "As a terebinth and as an oak whose stock remains...so the holy seed is the stock thereof." (Isaiah 6, 13). It is interesting to mention that some giant trees of that kind, more than a thousand years old, still remain in Israel. Important events in the history of Israel happened under Ella trees, to memorize their place and to emphasize their significance: the angel appeared to Gideon under the Ella (Judges 6). Saul, first king of Israel, was buried with his sons under the Ella in Jabesh (I Chronicles 10, 12). The name Ella was not restricted to females. As a symbol of strength and power it was a favorite name for men too. For example, King Ella son of Baasha (who was coroneted king of Israel in 885 b.c. There were also places called Ella: the

important valley where the fatal fights between David and Goliath took place was called the Vale of Ella (I Samuel 17, 2).

The Ella tree symbolized also God's justice and it served as God's instrument to punish Absalom.

Absalom was King David's third son. When his half brother, Amnon (David's first born), raped his sister Tamar, Absalom murdered him and ran away to Philistine. On his return he plotted to take his fathers throne, incited the people to rebel and led them against David, who had to flee to the eastern bank of the Jordan. After he murdered a few of David's faithful men, Absalom was coroneted in Jerusalem by hi followers. After David's victory in the battle between the two sides, Absalom tried to escape on his

CON'T ON PAGE 4

## Just for Laughs....

### When does life begin?

A priest, a vicar and a rabbi are asked the question "When does life begin?" The priest says: "The moment of conception".

The vicar replies: "The moment of birth".

The rabbi replies: "The moment the kids are married and the mortgage has been paid off."

### Nine Happy People

It's Sunday evening and Rabbi Levy is in deep conversation with his friend. "I must tell you something, Moshe," he says, "I made nine people very, very happy today."

"A mitzvah, Rabbi, a true mitzvah," says Moshe, "but tell me- how did you manage to achieve this?"

"I performed four marriage ceremonies in my synagogue this afternoon," replies Rabbi Levy.

Moshe is puzzled. "I can see how you

made eight people happy, Rabbi, but what about the ninth?"

"Do you really believe I did all this for free?" replies Rabbi Levy.

## Delicious Pumpkin Apple Butter....

1 (15-ounce) can 100% pure pumpkin

1 cup apple, peeled and grated  
1 cup 100% pure apple juice

1/2 cup firmly packed brown sugar

3/4 teaspoon pumpkin pie spice  
Combine pumpkin, apple, apple juice, sugar and pumpkin pie spice

in medium, heavy-duty saucepan. Bring to a boil; reduce heat to low.

Cook, stirring occasionally, for 1 1/2 hours. Store in airtight container in refrigerator for up to 2 months.

Makes 24 servings (2 tablespoons each



Pumpkin Apple Butter

This thick and delicious pumpkin-apple butter is great spread on matzo or matzo brei. Makes a great gift, too!



## TEMPLE OF THE HIGH COUNTRY

PO Box 2895  
Boone, North Carolina 28607  
Phone: 828-264-8364

### CHAI TIMES

We're on the web [www.  
templeofthehighcountry.org](http://www.templeofthehighcountry.org)

*Thank you to all those who renewed TOHC membership this fall or became members for the first time. Thanks, also to those who have given to the building fund for the Temple of the High Country.*

*We have tried to get written acknowledgements to all members and donors. Sometimes due to oversight or address change we miss someone. If your gift or dues was made prior to November 1 and has gone unacknowledged, please leave a message at 828-264-5738 with your name, phone number and the best time to return your call. We will straighten things out.*

*To the brave persons who are spending the winter or who are just visiting here in the High Country we have Friday night services at 7pm at St Luke's Episcopal Church located behind Earthfare Grocery Store in Boone. If we are experiencing inclement weather please listen to the local radio station for cancellation of services.*

*We will be having our traditional celebration of Hanukkah on December 11. Everyone is invited to bring their Menorahs, a plate of latkes and a covered dish (Dairy or Parve) and join this beautiful celebration of the Miracle of Lights*

## Words from our Torah Scholar.....

Horse, but his long hair got caught in the branches of an Ella tree and David's people killed him (II Samuel 14-18). It seems like the Ella stretched its arms to catch and hold the traitor so justice could be done.

Baby Ella was born on Shabbat Shouva, the 8th of Tishrei, just two days before Yom Kippur. According to tradition and the sages (Hazel), the righteous and just are borne in the week of Yom Kippur. Those are the Zaddikim (the word derived from Zedek= justice). The bible talks a lot about the Zaddik, the just. Praises like: "And the just shall live by his faith" (Habakkuk 2'4) or "the righteous shall flourish like a palm-tree". (Ps 93,13) appear abundantly in the text.

It is amazing how tightly Ella is connected to our roots as a people. How our Biblical past in Israel is so well tied with our present life here in Boone, NC. How four thousands years of Hebraic history and culture are folded in a little baby girl

called "Ella".

Wishing Ella and her family Mazel Tov

TOHC Member

Katia Lioz

### News from the Ritual/Cemetery Committee Ruth Etkin and Naomi Marks

By the time you read this, the Gan Shalom (Garden of Peace) Jewish Temple of the High Country section of the Mount Lawn Memorial Park and Gardens Cemetery will be ready for the congregation to pre-select plots for the future.

On Sept. 25, Ruth Etkin led a Consecration Service incorporating all those gravesites that have already been set aside, bought from the Boone Jewish Community in years past, as well as those already consecrated by those already buried there, loved ones of members of the congregation.

The cemetery in Boone, just past the New Market shopping center on 421, is convenient and we are blessed to have owner Klee Lyle and General Manager Betty Triplett as the most considerate and interested supporters that we could wish for.

Anyone interested in getting information about pre-planning for their cemetery plots, need only contact Naomi Marks, head of the Cemetery Committee. She and Arnold have done this work in Greensboro and will help you in any way they can. They "commute" between Sugar Mountain and Greensboro and can be reached through the following: email: [anmarks@bellsouth.net](mailto:anmarks@bellsouth.net); or (828) 898- 4077 (Sugar Mt.) or (336) 299-0076 (Greensboro)